

ADM-4

DD/R-263-63

20 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT: Space Problems

1. As you will recall some months ago there was considerable high level discussion of the existing space problems within this building. At that time it was estimated that something in excess of [] was desired in this building beyond the building's capacity. This total problem with various alternative proposed solutions was finally presented to Mr. McCone. Mr. McCone acted on part of one of the alternatives and thereby provided a part solution. This was the decision to relocate part of OBI. The rest of the total problem, however, has not been resolved and still resides top side. Everyone is waiting for some magic answer without the necessity of an unpleasant decision or at least waiting for someone else to make the decision.

25X1

2. Further, there was no decision made as to whom would get the OBI space. There were several identified high priorities within the guidance that was apparently given to Logistics. The DD/R had this aura of high priority.

3. On 19 December, after various briefings, discussions, etc., over a considerable period of time, I formalized, defined, justified, etc., our total space needs, categorizing those aspects of the total problem I considered to be immediately urgent. In the interim, by continual close collaboration with the Logistics Services Division, we had developed a plan utilizing some of the OBI space plus some ground floor space we were given which made a very acceptable, in fact, very pleasant solution for OEL on a permanent basis; that is within presently approved size, scope, etc. In addition, we had [] of the OBI space planned for the joint staff and ORD. This would have been adequate for at least a good start and would accommodate our needs for at least six months.

25X1

Subject: Space Problems 2

4. Logistics Services concurred in these plans and recommended to the DD/S these particular allocations plus a few other smaller priority solutions utilizing the rest of the OBI space. Until these proposals were approved we, of course, could not initiate work orders for telephones or other building modifications to suit our needs. This stalemate has now existed for something like three weeks. Now OBI is out, the rooms are empty and have been locked. I understand that this interim small solution is now re-entangled with the over-all big problem, with the net result that no decision has been made on either the little or the big problem.

5. Colonel White has had [] serving as his personal staff officer to study this problem and as of eleven o'clock [] assured me that Mr. Kirkpatrick and Colonel White were working on this problem yesterday, he would get me a status report at noon today and let me know where things stand. I have invited that all come have a personal look if they wish or tell us what we may do in order to hasten a decision; but the answer is that they know we are not crying wolf, that we have a firm need, but that additionally so do many other people and the problems cannot be resolved without other major decisions and these are difficult to make. This difficulty is quite understandable and one that we have been caressing at all echelons since early last fall. It does not appear that time has washed the problem away, nor that the solution is any easier.

Conclusion.

6. I am not at all sure of any precise step that we should ask you to take at this point. This whole issue I have come to realize in the last six months is a politically and emotionally charged one. There are strong pressures to not let new activities start up in the building such as our ORD - possibly move the entire DD/R out. I have tried very carefully to avoid the kind of urgency that would precipitate an immediate decision because I fear that if such decision is precipitated it may be that we will be told that if we are in such a desperate hurry the only thing to do is to move out or move ORD out. I have tried to nurture this plan which went forward a few weeks ago very carefully because

Subject: Space Problems 3

I felt our position would then be much stronger with those new acquisitions - we would be almost entirely in as opposed to our present plight of having scarcely half of our total needs. At this particular time I am now trying to play the theme of pure competitive merit, trying to avoid threats or precipitous pressure by saying in effect - here are our needs, here is an existing plan that offers considerable solution, come have a look at our situation and tell me if there is anyone else with a stronger need. This has worked as best I can tell with those who have in fact acquired a good grasp of the picture.

7. Thus at this point more pressure may tip the scales in our favor or it may tip off a move by our space competitors for one of the alternatives that included us out. I have believed that the Director would support us, but I am not so sure up to that point and he seems to have developed a capacity for letting decisions get made for him which don't always appear to coincide with what he had indicated he wanted.


Executive Assistant
Deputy Director (Research)

25X1

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

1 - EA/DD/R

2 - DD/R Files

DDR:  (20 Feb 63)

P.S. Early this afternoon I had a personal chat with Colonel White, DD/S. He told me that he is personally endorsing and supporting this immediate interim move that we have wanted. He said the delay is occasioned by the fact that he feels he must get the Director's office to make some sort of decision on the myriad of other problems, and that he is trying to use this present situation vis-a-vis his and the OBI space for leverage to make them look at the rest of the total picture. Thus while supporting us for this immediate plan that we have been depending on, he is at the same time trying to force a decision to the rest of our total problem.